



Fear and misinterpretation, especially stereotypes, are often root causes of prejudice and conflict among people of different religious backgrounds. Education can bring a greater understanding of the different faiths and especially point out their many similarities.

~Maia

If I were to organize a program that would enhance inter-religious dialogue, I would start with this Zen proverb:

*When the wise man points at the moon
All the fool sees is the finger.*

and note that true faith is based more upon realization than belief. I would note that all religions have practices, be they called meditation or contemplative prayer to allow the practitioner to gain insight into the spiritual realm. With this insight it would be easy for people to discuss what those practices are in the individual religions.

~Ron

Education is a double-edged sword. On the one side is a tendency to compartmentalize—to become an expert in a single segment of knowledge, and, therefore, to use the prestige of specialization. The hopeful side of education is that it opens doors of understanding, promotes creative ways of thinking and actively responding. It can easily place different traditions together with inquiring minds. (As the motto in my study reads: "Never STOP learning.") Sometimes, we learn the historical significance, sometimes the cultural conditions, and sometimes the long record of survival in the midst of seemingly insurmountable odds. And, harmony can mean the willingness to work together, as evidenced in World War II.

~Sal